
THE
CRISIS.

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DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

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A candid Appeal to every true Lover of God, his Country,
and Himself;

FRIENDS and COUNTRYMEN,



IN Matters of the utmost Importance, we are bound to use the greatest Caution. No good Man who has the Welfare of Mankind at Heart, will hastily involve his Fellow Creatures in Calamities and Troubles, Civil Wars and Commotions, for such trifling Injuries, or wrong Conduct of our Rulers, as may sometimes be incident to Persons of the fairest and most upright Intentions. But when the common Welfare of all is wilfully neglected, the most sacred Rights of the People openly invaded, and their repeated humble Petitions for the redress of Grievances, not only thought undeserving of Consideration, but themselves made a Topic of Jest and Mockery by the Court, thereby adding Insults to their Injuries, every good Man will steadily unite in the common Cause, and use his utmost Endeavours to wrest the Power of Government out of Hands, that have exercised it weakly and wickedly. It were much to be wished, that the Evils of a Nation might be cured without

without Violence: But when it is evident that public Liberty and safety is not even tolerably secured, and that Mischiefs, and those too of a more lasting Kind, daily arise from the Continuance of the present Men in Power, than are to be feared from the vigorous Efforts for an Alteration of them, it is our Duty, as it is lawful and honourable, to oppose and defeat their System of Government, which apparently tends to the utter Subversion of the Rights and Liberties of a free People. By the Law of Nature, every Man has a Right to defend himself against the Abuse of Power, and by the singular Constitution of this Kingdom, when Kings and Ministers break through the Bounds prescribed by the Laws, the Peoples Right of Resistance, is unquestionable. For as the End of all civil Government is the safety and Happiness of the whole Body; any Power not naturally conducive to this End is certainly unjust: And what our worthy Ancestors (perhaps rashly) granted, we may contract or abolish, whenever we find it necessary for our Preservation so to do. If they had a Right to constitute, we have a Power to abrogate.

The Prince and People take, in Effect, a sort of Engagement one with another, the Prince to govern well, and the People, so long as the Contract is religiously adhered to on his Part, to honour and obey him. If he regards his own Interest in preference to that of his People, he necessarily Forfeits every Claim to their Affection and Esteem.

Let the Calm, the Dispassionate, the rational Man, survey with his own Eyes the present Situation of our Affairs, and regulate his Conduct upon Principles of Reason.

In Times of National Decay---when Trade is rapidly Declining---when the Poor are groaning under the Oppressions of the Rich---when the ancient Rights and Liberties of the People are daringly attacked, and openly violated---when that Land which used to be esteemed a Paradise, is made a Stage of Cruelty and Injustice---when Merit is wholly neglected, and those only advanced at this Time, who are willing to become Instruments in the horrid Work of Despotism---when public Duties engage not the least Share of Attention, but senseless Ostentation, Profuseness and Dissipation are the sole Objects of Delight amongst the great, whose pernicious Examples tend to draw all Ranks of Men to a base Conformity of Spirit with

with themselves---when our Court is slavish, Parliament corrupted, and those who formerly brought Kings and Ministers to a Sense of their Duty, submit themselves in the midst of Affluence, to a mean servile Dependence upon the Crown---when Bribery at Elections (which annihilates all due Regard to Conscience, and utterly destroys the Morals of the People, the sure Basis of national Felicity) is publickly avowed, as the necessary Expedient of Government---when all Manner of Profaneness, Looseness, Luxury, and Immorality are set up and countenanced, instead of Piety, Virtue, Modesty, and Justice---when the Sword is employed by a blood-thirsty implacable Administration, to massacre our guiltless Fellow-subjects Abroad, and seems destined in the End to butcher those at Home, what Joy can an Englishman receive, when the true Face of our Affairs carries such a miserable Aspect? whose Heart is there so unfeeling with respect to the Public Welfare, as not to sympathise with the Distresses and Calamities of his Country?

It is the indispensable Duty of every Man, who has Virtue enough to prefer the general Good of the Community, and who pretends to a Concern for its Interests, to consider well the Part he ought to take, in a Scene so pregnant with Mischief, Ruin, and Distress. He must either shamefully relapse into an indolent Indifference about every Thing, that ought to interest him as an Englishman, or be animated by a just and honourable Purpose of obtaining a Satisfaction to the Laws of his Country, equal at least to the Violation they have suffered.

Our Duties in this Life, if we are sensible, that we have any to perform at all, stand in a regular Subordination: Our Duty to God; Mankind; our Country; our Family, Friends, and Neighbours; and our Duty to ourselves; these several Distinctions ought to be carefully considered, and religiously observed. Whoever pursues his own Interest at the Expence of his Neighbour or Family, commits a Breach of Duty, not only in that, but in every superior Degree. This is a most certain Rule in Religion, Virtue, and Morality: The Luxurious, as well as the Avaricious, will do well to attend to it.

Our Ancestors evidently appear not only to have intended well, but to have taken a right Course to accomplish what they intended. They were convinced that no System of Government was practicable

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in this Country, but that which, after a most generous Profusion of their precious Blood for many Ages, was established at the last glorious Revolution. By that Settlement, all the Blessings of Freedom which can consist with kingly Rule, the People have; and all the Prerogatives of Royalty which can consist with civil Freedom, are indulged to the King. From this just Intermixture of popular and regal Forms, when kept within their due Bounds, they might, as they did reasonably expect, that both Prince and People would be too wise to violate this excellent Constitution. In the present Reign, and at a shorter Distance than a Century, we have to lament --- the decay of that Fabrick, which they thought, would last till the End of Time. We live to see Parliaments, which in former Days were the best Defence of our Lives, Liberties, and Estates, sell and destroy the Interests they were chosen to preserve,

Miserable People! to be cheated and sold by them they trusted: Infamous Traffic! by Men, who (to the Disgrace of Human Nature) have crept into the Government of a Nation, and who intend nothing by their Offers to the Publick, but to feed their Avarice, their Vanity, and their Luxury, without a Sense of any single Duty they owe to God, their Country, or Mankind. Those who used to bridle Kings, and were instituted purposely to keep the Balance equal between them and the People, are now become the Instruments of all our Oppressions, and a Sword in the Hands of Mad-Men to destroy us. Here pause awhile---consult our own Understandings, and convince ourselves of the Duty we owe to our Forefathers, Ourselves, and our Posterity, as Englishmen.

The Voice of Freedom calls us, as our very Security demands it of our Hands, to repair the Breaches that are already made, and are increasing daily in the Constitution; we must fortify those Parts, which Time and Experience have proved to every thinking Man, were left too Naked, Open, and Defenceless.---Shorter Parliaments---An utter Exclusion of Placemen and Pensioners from our House of Commons---Contracting the enormous Revenue of the Crown, with a more fair and equal Representation of the People, are what Necessity must convince us all, ought in our Time to be accomplished. In a Work so conducive to our future Happiness, no Time should be lost. We should remember, that the Evils of a Nation, like many Diseases of the Body, through Inattention and Neglect, frequently become Incurable; that the Constitution lives in Pain,
continues

continues in Langour, and, if not relieved, must die soon---That the Means of Redress are in our Possession, and we are shamefully degenerated if we are wanting in Spirit---And that our Fathers who left the most valuable Inheritance of any in the whole World, A FREE GOVERNMENT, in their last Prayers beseeched Almighty God, that their Posterity might enjoy the Blessings of Freedom, no longer than they had Sense to value, and Virtue to deserve them.

Liberty is to the collective Body, what Health is to every Individual; without Health, no Pleasure can be tasted by Man: without Liberty, no Happiness can be enjoyed by Society. The Obligation, therefore, to maintain and defend the Constitution, will appear most sacred to every rational Understanding. Men who are sensible of themselves, of their Dignity and Rights, will never shrink from the Service of their Country, or promote its Interests coolly and uncertainly, but on every Occasion, be ready to risque every Thing in its Defence. They will behold, with the utmost indifference and unconcernedness, the Ridicule and Censure of those Tools of Power, who would drown the Voice of Freedom in the Clamours of a Faction. For the false Glare of Integrity, and supposed Abilities of many, who would be the Instruments of a wicked Administration, rather than have no Employment at all; Honest Men will shew much well-grounded Contempt; and against the real Immorality of such, as are so wicked to prefer the basest Service, to the Re-establishment of a Free Constitution, they will ever have a just Indignation. Such Slaves ought to be treated as they deserve, because they are avowed Enemies to Freedom, from that Antipathy, which private Interest, and the Lust of Power for selfish Ends, will ever bear to true Patriotism and Public Virtue.

Let them please themselves with making a King Absolute, who thinks a whole Nation may be justly sacrificed for the Interest and Pleasures of a Man, and a few of his Followers. Let others rejoice in their Subtlety, who, by betraying their Trust, have advanced themselves in these dangerous Changes; perhaps, they may one Day find, that they have, with much Pains, purchased their own Ruin; that the King's Power, is their Shame, His Plenty, the Peoples Misery: and that the gaining of an Office for the Sake of enriching themselves, is but a poor Reward for destroying a Nation, which if it were preserved in Liberty and Virtue, would be the most glorious of any in the whole World.

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What Man can even doubt, when a Nation is falling from the greatest Height of Glory, into the most despicable Condition, that the Community has a Right to Command his Services. That the Right is founded upon Necessity. He ought to know by the Principles of the last Revolution, when the present Family was called to the Government of this Kingdom, and its Dominions, that every faithful Subject is bound to resist the Prince who endeavours to ruin and enslave his People, and that he may push this Resistance to the Dethronement and Exclusion of his Race. The Laws and Constitution are the general Property of the Subject-----not to defend, is to relinquish; and who is there so senseless as to renounce his Share in a common Benefit, unless he hopes to profit by a new Division in the Spoil. The highest Station, the greatest Glory that any Mortal can aspire to, is to be during the whole Course of his Life, the Support of Good, the Controul of bad Government, the Protector of Virtue, the Patron of Industry, and the Guardian of Public Liberty. When our Rights are invaded, our Feelings ought to tell us how long we ought to submit, and at what Moment it would be Treachery not to Resist. The present Situation of this Country, is alarming enough to rouse the Attention of every Man, who pretends to a Concern for the Public Welfare. Bad as it is, there is no Extremity of Distress, which of itself ought to reduce a great Nation to despair. A luke-warm Conduct is always odious; in Times of national Ruin, highly criminal. We owe it to our Ancestors to preserve entire those Rights which they have delivered to our Care; and we certainly owe it to our innocent Posterity not to suffer their dearest Inheritance to be destroyed. If we are sensible of these sacred Claims, we shall find there is an Obligation, binding upon Ourselves, from which nothing can acquit us-----a Personal Interest which we cannot surrender.

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